IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A flat lamp, comprising:

a bottom having a single channel including a plurality of bends uniformly crossing an entire surface thereof;

an arc-discharging gas within the channel;

a cover disposed upon an upper junction surface of the bottom, the cover coated with a fluorescent material; and

an electric field generating means for generating an electric field, wherein the electric field generating means is placed along opposing lateral sides of the channel.

Claim 2 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the electric field generating means comprises a cathode disposed at a first one of the opposing lateral sides of the channel, an anode disposed at a second one of the opposing lateral sides of the channel, and a connector connected to end portions of the electric field generating means.

Claim 3 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 2, wherein a first distance between the cathode and the anode is approximately the same as a second distance between the opposing lateral sides of the channel.

Claim 4 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 2, wherein the connector applies an external power source to the electric field generating means.

Claim 5 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the channel is a continuous curve having a first open surface that is sealed after an end portion of the electric field generating means has been connected to a connector and after the arc-discharging gas has been injected into the channel.

Claim 6 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the bottom and the cover are rectangular shaped.

Claim 7 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the channel is alternately formed parallel to a long side and a short side of the bottom.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the bottom and the cover are round shaped.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The flat lamp according to Claim 8, wherein the channel has a volute shape elongated from an open surface along a circumferential surface of the bottom toward a center of the bottom.

Claim 10 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the electric field generating means includes wires.

Claim 11 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 10, wherein grooves of a predetermined depth are formed at both of the opposing lateral sides of the channel.

Claim 12 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the electric field generating means includes at least two films, wherein each of the at least two films is formed upon the opposing lateral sides of the channel.

Claim 13 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the cover is one formed of at least a glass material, a heat-resistant resin, a metal and an oxide.

Claim 14 (Original): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, wherein a first distance between the cathode and the anode is constant.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a LCD panel;

a backlight assembly disposed adjacent to the LCD panel, wherein the backlight unit comprises:

a bottom having a channel uniformly crossing an entire surface thereof;

an arc-discharging gas injected into the channel;

a cover disposed on an upper junction surface of the bottom; and

an electric field generating means for generating an electric field, wherein the electric field generating means is disposed along opposing lateral sides of the channel.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 15, wherein the LCD panel comprises a lower glass substrate on which at least one thin film transistor is formed, an upper glass substrate on which at least one color filter is formed, and a liquid crystal material injected between the lower glass substrate and the upper glass substrate.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 15, wherein the electric field generating means comprises a cathode disposed at one of the opposing lateral sides of the channel, an anode disposed at another of the opposing lateral sides of the channel, and a connector connected to an end portion of the electric field generating means, wherein the connector applies an external power source to the electric field generating means.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 15, wherein the cover is coated with a fluorescent material.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 15, wherein the channel is of a serpentine shape.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 15, wherein the channel is of a volute shape.

Claim 21 (New): The flat lamp according to Claim 1, further comprising a liquid crystal display panel.